

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Commission**

ITEM

7

DECISION

TOPIC

**Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement– Nebraska Department of
Environmental Quality – Homeland Security Planning and Exchanges**

The Department requests Commission approval of an amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement signed last year for the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) to pay the Iowa DNR for Iowa's share of a joint project to set up an exchange of environmental data for homeland security. The amendment will increase the amount from \$25,000 to \$54,189.

Background: The four states in Region VII received a joint grant from EPA for Homeland Security Planning and Exchanges. Nebraska (NDEQ) is the lead agency, and partner states include: Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. We had to wait to see the exact amount needed for the shared part of the project, before the final amount for each state could be determined.

Purpose: to develop a web service process among the four states to provide automated access to environmental information for those involved in homeland security/emergency response. This data will be used to enhance decision-making and risk assessment for situations with environmental problems that overlap state boundaries. It will also improve data access for local emergency responders, such as counties and fire departments.

Funding: all federal funding from the Exchange Network Challenge Grant from EPA.

Chuck Corell, Water Quality Bureau Chief
Environmental Services Division

Memo Date: November 5, 2007